

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the Meeting of Nailsworth Town Council**  
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
**on Tuesday 16 November 2010**

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr N I Kay Cllr M P Robinson Cllr Mrs G E Smith Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way
Present for part of the meeting	District Cllr R T H Blackwell District Cllr Miss F Macmillan  Mr Geoff Sallis, Glos Assistant Chief Fire Officer, and Ms Dawn Thompson
Apologies	Cllr J A Byrne Cllr J R Nicholson County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr J T Jeffreys

**2010/143 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr John Burfitt repeated his appeal from earlier in the year that NTC reconsider its objection to the application of a residents' parking scheme in Church Street. Cllr Kay clarified that no action had been taken since Mr Burfitt's previous request because GCC had put the proposal into abeyance and NTC would look at it again when the proposal was reinstated. The Mayor and Cllr Mrs Way agreed to visit Church Street with Mr Burfitt prior to the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

**2010/144 PRESENTATION BY Mr G SALLIS, GCC Assistant Chief Fire Officer**

Mr Sallis outlined the changes to RTC response, with more manpower (10 instead of 7) and better equipment. He explained the process of responding to an RTC call and prioritising the despatch of appliances according to location. It was proposed not to replace the obsolete rescue appliance at Stroud and to use savings to improve the service and redeploy spare staff across the county. The changes would actually improve the service's efficiency of response to RTCs. Callouts for fires were reducing thanks to better prevention and education at school level and the focus of the service was changing according to the changes in demand.

Mr Sallis was asked to give an undertaking that Nailsworth Fire Station would not be closed, to which he responded that cuts of 18% over the next four years would mean a review of staff deployment but current funding plans did not involve any station closures.

Cllrs expressed concern that the loss of the Stroud special vehicle would affect cover in the Nailsworth area, but Mr Sallis advised that most of that vehicle's equipment was being fitted to another pump rescue vehicle. The heavy duty crane function was covered by four other vehicles across the county, and this was a facility mostly used for clearing up after RTCs or rescuing animals.

Mr Sallis advised that GCC's programme of funding cuts would give a fuller picture in April and proposals would go out to public consultation.

Mr Sallis was questioned as to why the money saved from the Stroud vehicle would not be spent to improve the Stroud area service specifically. He responded that the service, manpower and vehicles were for the benefit of the county as a whole, and funds were shared out accordingly.

Former Nailsworth Station Officer Barry Hathaway asked if a Public Protective Committee still existed to which the public could appeal. Mr Sallis advised that representation was now made through a lead cabinet member for Community Safety and the Scrutiny Committee. There would be plenty of opportunity to appeal if there was ever a suggestion to close Nailsworth Station which would not be done without considerable consultation.

Mr Sallis agreed with the meeting that the changes to RTC response should have been put into practice long ago, but his presentation tonight was part of the consultation progress. He hoped that feedback would be reviewed by the end of next month so that changes could be implemented as of January.

Mr Sallis was thanked for his reassuring presentation.

#### **2010/145 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October were approved and signed, with correction of a typographical error on minute 2010/132 - the last word being "demolition"

#### **2010/146 SPEED RESTRICTIONS JUBILEE ROAD AREA (minute 2010/124)**

It was noted that the 20mph signs were still covered, and County Cllr Waddington had been asked when the scheme would finally go into operation.

#### **2010/147 PAVEMENT PARKING in COSSACK SQUARE (minute 2010/124)**

The Mayor had again spoken to the police on Saturday and had asked for action from them or the Neighbourhood Wardens to tackle this ongoing problem.

#### **2010/148 REPLACEMENT TOWN HALL CARETAKER (minute 2020/127)**

Notices had gone up and there had been one response. It was agreed to delegate responsibility for any new appointment to the Clerk and Chairman of Property Management Committee.

#### **2010/149 SERVICEMEN KILLED in ACTION SINCE WW2 (minute 2010/129)**

Mr Tim Godden and Mr Tony Evans, RBL had confirmed to Cllr Kay that there were no casualties from the Nailsworth area from other conflicts since WW2. Cllr Kay was asked to obtain this in writing.

#### **2010/150 MUGA at FOREST GREEN (minute 2010/131)**

Cllr Kay advised that he was meeting on Friday morning with Mr Sean Davis chairman of governors and Mr Vince Southcott headteacher at Nailsworth Primary School to prepare for a meeting with Ms Karen Toole SDC that afternoon. The School would be asked for a map showing exactly where it wished the new MUGA to be sited.

#### **2010/151 ACCESS to KGV by VICARAGE GATE (minute 2010/131)**

Cllr Kay advised that he had met with Cllr M Robinson, the Clerk and Town Groundsman at the lower KGV gate. There were various ways forward which would need to be considered by the Recreation & Amenities Committee.

#### **2010/152 REMEMBRANCE PARADE & SERVICE 14 NOVEMBER (minute 2010/139)**

The Mayor had thanked the police on doing an excellent job this time in stopping traffic for the parade.

#### **2010/153 CLASH of SDC MEETINGS (minute 2010/140)**

Cllr Kay advised that as the next Stonehouse Cluster meeting on 7 December clashed with SDC leader Mr David Hagg's annual Christmas meeting, the Cluster meeting had been postponed.

**2010/154 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**District Cllr Blackwell** read out the list of changes to the SDC consultation process for planning applications, which changes to be reviewed after 12 months by the Scrutiny Committee. He hoped that if the number of applications decreased, there would be time for public appeals. District Cllr Miss Macmillan added that the most significant change was that a group of objecting individuals no longer had the right to have an application referred to committee.

Cllrs felt the changes were being hurried through and deplored the removal of public consultation and denial of a democratic process in the name of speeding up the system. Cllr Blackwell advised that SDC Conservative Cllrs had been instructed to support the proposal despite some disquiet. (He confirmed however that he had never been instructed how to vote on Planning Committee.) Cllr Miss Macmillan added that it had been a very heated debate with much opposition and the motion was carried by only three votes. The report from the Scrutiny Committee was ignored and she felt residents should be made aware of the changes through local newsletters.

SDC would be working on its budget next month, and Cllr Blackwell expected information on cuts would be published in January, although he hoped there would be nothing too drastic as he felt SDC had on the whole been prudent. He did not believe that overspend on the canal bridge would affect the general running budget of the council.

The Mayor pointed out that if SDC intended to pass on additional responsibilities to NTC, January would be too late as NTC's budget would already have been fixed.

**District Cllr Miss Macmillan** reported that following a hard fight against the proposed development at the Railway Hotel, the appeal had failed.

The agreement to close Nailsworth Recreation Centre had been passed last week with confirmation of a £10k grant to the Nailsworth Sports Partnership.

A review of Sheltered Housing was underway but Cllr Miss Macmillan did not anticipate any reduction in warden cover in Nailsworth.

Cllr Miss Macmillan was working with Nailsworth Primary School on an energy audit, with the aim of improving the building's thermal efficiency, which would in turn be beneficial to any Recreation Centre plans.

**2010/155 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS**

21 October	attended the NYCE AGM and was very impressed with the recent improvements to the foyer and toilet block at the Subscription Rooms
22 October	a good networking opportunity at the launch of 'Stroud Life' bitter at the Village Inn
	with Cllr Mrs Way, met with members of the National Trust to look at clearing work on the W
23 October	held a Mayor's surgery at the Farmers' Market
24 October	attended the annual service of Stroud Hospital at Holy Trinity Church
29 October	met with Cllr M Robinson and Mr Jim Eddyshaw to consider a safety harness for the clocktower
31 October	attended the final service at Shortwood Church
4 November	met with Mrs Liz Green and Mr Don Luke to discuss the setting up of a satellite of the Stroud Volunteer Bureau
9 November	met with those interested in brightening up the town with flowers in 2011 **
12 November	another networking opportunity, this time to launch 'Neil's Coalition Bitter'
13 November	with Cllr Mrs Way, met residents at Lower Bunting Hill

14 November	attended the Service of Remembrance and Parade
16 November	met with Mr Les Haines, chairman of Stroud Voluntary Bureau

\*\* The Mayor drew attention to the proposals to help with town gardening and sought the meeting's approval for this to proceed:

- Troughs at the bottom of Spring Hill to be planted and attended by Nailsworth & District Flower Arrangement Society
- The half moon border in front of the clock tower by Ruskin Mill students for a minimum of two years
- The borders near the stream in Mortimer Gardens by the Nailsworth Society Gardening Club
- The trough in Cossack Square by the Nailsworth Youth Club

The Mayor would also encourage traders to supply and hang their own baskets wherever possible.

The Clerk commented that the clock tower planting had been carefully designed for minimal maintenance, and she hoped this would not be replaced by a more labour intensive and expensive planting scheme that would be abandoned by the volunteers after a year or two.

Cllr Kay felt the proposal merited further discussion at a Recreation & Amenities meeting, but the majority thought it was a lovely idea and should go ahead. The groups were keen to get started and a plaque would be erected at each site to indicate which group was maintaining it.

The Clerk raised the matter of NTC's insurance liability and it was presumed some of the groups would have their own insurance cover, but perhaps not all. It might be possible to extend the council's policy to cover volunteer "gardeners" but the risk was quite different to that for volunteers in the Archive Office and TIC. The Clerk undertook to clarify the insurance position.

**RESOLVED**      **The meeting approved the proposals that the aforementioned groups take charge of planting and maintaining the identified areas of council garden, subject to receiving each group's agreement that work was done at its own risk and with hand tools only.**

The Mayor mentioned that only three Cllrs sat in the reserved front row at Sunday's Remembrance Service and he would ask for only one seat next year.

Cllr M Robinson advised that the safety harness was now in operation in the clock tower.

**2010/156      REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had also attended the Remembrance Day Service.

**2010/157      REPORT of TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk had received further documents - Countryside Voice winter 2010; CPRE Glos branch autumn newsletter; 'Brave New World' SDC planning.

The Clerk had been contacted by Mr Stuart Dunn who was keen to start a fitness class in KGV, one hour a week for cardio vascular exercise. Since the use of KGV for such purposes had already been debated and approved following a previous request, it was agreed to carry forward the decision for Mr Dunn and approve his class at a cost of £16 + vat.

**2010/158      REPORTS from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports.

## 2010/159 POSSIBLE FUNDING CUTS in GCC SERVICES

"Big community Offer". The Mayor had emailed round his correspondence in his role as chairman of the Youth Club, and had attended a meeting with Minchinhampton and Horsley PCs to review the proposals with Cllr Waddington.

The main proposals affecting Nailsworth were that:

- Nailsworth Library would become a 'link library', where other organisations were encouraged to share the space. There would be only 3 paid staff hours per week; any additional staffing to be by volunteers. The books would remain and would be replenished, and the computers would stay.
- The Youth Service was to be completely disbanded, with no open youth work, other than a youth hub in each area for targeted young people by invitation only.
- There would be some cuts to road safety
- The Archive Service would remain but the £3million extension would be dropped.
- The Fire Service was not mentioned
- 483 staff to go in the first year

The full report could be downloaded from website.

Cllrs were devastated at the loss of two valuable services to the town, and especially youth provision on which Cllrs had spent much time over several years fighting to secure part funding for a youth worker. They were disappointed that no alternatives were being put forward and recognised that, with its limited resources, NTC would be hard pressed to maintain much of what was to be lost, and that once lost, it would never be reinstated. Cllrs felt they needed to have greater information on what the actual costs were before being able to consider what NTC could salvage, pending consultation with residents, and their opinion on raising the precept to allow for the extra expenditure. Funding the Youth Worker totally would cost over 10% of NTC's current precept.

The Clerk added that the precept had been raised before to cover the £16k p.a. currently paid for the youth worker, which measure did not give rise to any complaints for a service apparently valued by the town.

Cllrs were keen to press GCC to look again at alternatives to these draconian measures and Cllr Carter suggested it should at least be asked to phase in any cuts over a couple of years. NTC's protest and objection should be widely publicised and public opinion sought on what residents would most wish to save. Bearing in mind that the Fountain would not be published until first week of January, it was hoped that copy could be put forward for the next Nailsworth News.

### PROPOSED

**Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr M Robinson that NTC advise GCC that it opposes the County Council's proposed cuts to services in the Nailsworth area, especially to the youth centre, library and support of the bus network. Cllrs deplore the action of the Conservative administration in proposing to make redundancies among Nailsworth's youth service and library staff.**

**NTC commends the efforts made so far by the chairman of the Youth Club Management Committee to try to persuade the Conservative administration to change its mind, and authorises him to continue his efforts also on behalf of the Town Council.**

**Cllrs ask FE&GP Committee to consider recommending an extra precept rise to preserve services at risk**

The motion was carried.

**PROPOSED** Cllr Carter proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawley that should GCC's response to the above representation be negative, NTC would ask that cuts be phased in over a two or three year period.

The motion was carried.

It was explained that the Gloucestershire Anti Cuts Alliance was made up of trade unions and some councils to oppose compulsory redundancies and cuts.

**2010/160 REPORT of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs Way presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 1 November and the minutes were approved, following correction to Tree Works at location in Newmarket, third line, where it was "Mr March putting forward three options", not Mr Wilkinson.

Beechwood Close/Highwood Drive

Cllr Kay had received a call from Mr Gavin Hill, Redrow Homes advising that Redrow was about to start the process of getting the new roads adopted by GCC. Cllr Mrs Thorpe had also spoken to Mr Hill and had told him to contact Snape Construction if he had any concerns.

Registration of Council land

The Clerk reported that she had been to Land Registry and the Records Office twice and would probably have to go again.

**2010/161 REPORT of FINANCE ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting held on 10 November and the minutes were approved, with the addition of Cllr M Robinson to the list of attendees.

**2010/162 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Carter presented the reports of the meetings held on 20 October and 2 November.

He confirmed that SDC now intended to take out enforcement action on the cars and containers etc at Lower Newmarket.

Resident had expressed disappointment to the Mayor that the Laburnums application had been approved despite many objections.

The Mayor had passed on the council's compliments to one of the shopkeepers in Market Street who had participated in organising the painting of the colourful mural next to Alfreda's Restaurant.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 20 October and 2 November 2010 be approved.</b>
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**2010/163 REPORT of COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Cllr Crawley presented the report of the meeting held on 15 November and the minutes were approved. Members were reminded that a copy approval meeting for the January Fountain would take place at 6pm on Monday 6 December.

**2010/164 REPORT on ARKELL CHARITABLE TRUST**

Cllr Mrs Thorpe confirmed that the Charity was now registered. The RDA was changing its contract so that the Charity would build the centre, and so would be vat exempt. The cost of removing the temporary building was covered by the RDA grant.

All business concerning the Arkell Centre now had to be conducted totally separately from NTC business. The only outstanding bill was for solicitors' fees for registering the charity, to be followed

by work on the Articles of Association. The Council as sole trustee had a financial interest in ensuring the financial viability of the project and could provide support as necessary, such as covering the cost of administration services. The working capital would need to be called down from the Public Loans Board for one year starting next month. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that Nailsworth was currently the 13<sup>th</sup> town or parish council in GB to act as sole trustee for the charity building of a community centre.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe wished to propose that, until further notice, all clerical and administrative charges would be donated free of charge to the Arkell Community Charitable Trust; and NTC would include the Charity free of charge on its insurance policies.

It was clarified that administration charges related to internal council work, such as taking of minutes. Public liability and buildings insurance would be covered by Snape during the build, and the Charity would not become liable until the finished building was handed over. It might be some time before the Arkell Centre became self sufficient and Ms Barbara Pond had explained that it was normal practice for a building of this kind to be included on a council's insurance policy, and benefit from cheaper rates. The Clerk added that this amounted to an additional £100-200 p.a.

The Business Plan assumed that the building would eventually be in a position to meet its own costs and it would be part of the Charity's role to monitor costs and income closely and regularly. It was agreed to add 'subject to annual review' to the proposal.

**PROPOSED** Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr Kay that, until further notice and subject to annual review:

- a) All clerical and administrative charges would be donated free of charge to the Arkell Community Charitable Trust
- b) NTC would include the Arkell Charity free of charge on its insurance policies.

The motion was carried.

**2010/165**      **ACCOUNTS**

<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>that the list of accounts for 16 November 2010 amounting to £318,173.14 be approved for payment.</b>
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**2010/166**      **GCC – confirmation of modification order for public footpath ZNA7**  
The Forest Green footpath had finally been approved and runs all the way into the woods.

**2010/167**      **GPFA – AGM 7 December 3pm, Tewkesbury**  
Cllrs were asked to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.

**2010/168**      **Mr David Drew, Stroud Labour Party – planning delegation proposals & survey of local issues**

Mr Drew was undertaking research with T&PCs relating to problematic planning delegation changes, and provided a questionnaire to be completed. Cllr M Robinson commented that this research was to do with Mr Drew's PHD rather than council business but the Clerk and Mayor offered to complete the questionnaire.

**2010/169**      **GCC – road closures:**

The following closures were noted:

Northfields Road, 6 December to 7 January and Seven Acres Road, 4 to 24 January for gas mains replacement;

Shortwood Road, 19 to 24 January for electrical works;

Old Bristol Road, 22 November for 2 weeks for road repair and resurfacing

**2010/170            GCC - Concessionary Fare scheme**

Although this scheme had been run satisfactorily in the past through SDC, it was now to be handled through the Library. A drop-in consultation would take place in Stroud on 30 November.

**2010/171            Sustainable Community Act**

A request from the co-ordinator of Local Works to lobby the minister and MP was noted.

..... Chairman

..... Date



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